

## VASCO M. TANNER — A PARTICIPATING CITIZEN

Verl G. Dixon<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Vasco M. Tanner is a great scientist who has excelled in his chosen field and given dedicated service to his community at the same time. Few people have the energy and the spirit for such achievement. It has been my good fortune to be stimulated by Dr. Tanner from college days in the late twenties and early 1930s to the present.

Perhaps the word *zest*, if combined with knowledge and dedication, would convey some of the impression he leaves with those who know him.

As the growth of Utah Valley began to surge, Dr. Tanner was one of the first to recognize potential dangers to the environment. This concern was expressed through his chairmanship of the Forest and Conservation Committee of the Provo Chamber of Commerce.

The construction of flood control works to be followed by contour retention construction and other conservation facilities are evidence of his persistent efforts.

A half century of research and teaching in the life sciences has been paralleled by equal time as a concerned citizen. Not only has Dr. Tanner worked to conserve the good things in our environment, but he has been devoted to building his community. As an original member of the Provo City Power Board and present chairman, he has contributed greatly to the growth and prosperity of our city. His good judgment and searching mind have been strong factors in building the more than ten million dollars of assets in the power department. This splendid utility has contributed over three million dollars to the general fund of Provo City. Superior service to the city at rates lower than power rates in the area is an indication of good management.

How Dr. Tanner has found time to do all he has been able to accomplish is a tribute to his ability to organize and carry out his plans. He has served in the State Legislature and was a member of the Utah State Parks and Recreation Commission during its years of greatest growth.

He served a term as president of the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers from September 1962 to September 1963. He has always had a keen interest in preserving the heritage of the great basin area.

Through all his endeavors, Dr. Tanner has received the support and encouragement of his wife, Annie Atkin Tanner, and their children.

It is a signal honor to me to be asked to pay tribute to such a noble citizen, churchman, and educator. His dedicated service to community, state, and nation will stand as a perpetual memorial to Dr. Vasco M. Tanner.

---

<sup>1</sup>Mayor of Provo City, Provo City Corporation, Provo, Utah.